

The Missouri Public Service Commission



A GUIDE TO LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Local public hearings are designed to give consumers the opportunity to speak directly to Public Service Commissioners, who will make the decision in a pending case. This hearing provides you a forum to express your views, opinions and concerns about this case or bring any service-related problems to the Commissioners' attention.

Who Participates In A Hearing?

- ▶ Affected customers
- ▶ Public Service Commissioners
- ▶ A PSC Regulatory Law Judge
- ▶ Parties to the case (including the PSC Staff; the Office of the Public Counsel; which represents residential and small business customers; representatives of utility companies; and others interested in the case.)

How Will The Hearing Proceed?

A Commission regulatory law judge presides over the hearing. At the start, the judge will introduce the members of the Commission and explain how the process works. Witnesses will be asked to testify. Witnesses appearing before the Commission are requested not to ask questions of the Commissioners. Because the case is still pending, Commissioners are not allowed to comment on the proceedings.

MAKING A STATEMENT -- If you would like to make a statement, sign the witness list before the public hearing begins. The regulatory law judge will call the witnesses from this list during the hearing. If a previous witness has already expressed your views, you may waive the right to comment or state for the record your agreement with a previous witness. Commissioners may ask questions in order to clarify your comments and concerns.



WITNESSES WHO TESTIFY MUST BE SWORN IN -- Witnesses are sworn in so their comments can be included as part of the official record in this case. You will be asked to state your name and address for the record. The local public hearing statements are considered as evidence and part of the official record that the Commission considers when making its decision in the case.



WHO ARE THE PSC COMMISSIONERS?

There are five commissioners who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Missouri Senate. The Governor also designates one member as the chairperson. Commissioners are appointed to staggered, six-year terms so that no more than two Commissioners' terms expire in any given year.

The Commission is responsible for deciding cases brought before it and for the declaration and enforcement of administrative rules. Many of the Commissioners' duties are performed by conducting hearings in contested cases. Hearings are conducted in a trial-like atmosphere using evidentiary standards under the Missouri Administrative Procedures Act.